

OCT 01 1998

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30, 1998
TO: Lester Snow
FROM: Ronnie Cohen and Gary Bobker
SUBJECT: New CALFED Expert Panel on Water Management

We understand that you have directed CALFED staff to convene an expert panel to assist in resolving some of the remaining issues related to water use efficiency. You have requested that this panel complete its work by mid-November. We urge you to ensure that this panel's review is not so narrowly focused as to render their findings meaningless, but instead that the panel be given the opportunity to do a proper review of the efficiency program.

Specifically, we recommend that CALFED charge the expert panel with the task of providing guidance for developing a strategic plan for the water use efficiency (defined in its broadest sense) and transfers elements of the CALFED Program. This would include a review of CALFED analyses on these issues to date and recommendations for how to adaptively manage the efficiency and transfers program as additional information is developed. This approach is consistent with the approach used to review and improve the ecosystem restoration program and we believe is the best way to use an expert panel on water use efficiency in the limited time available. It is important that the panel's makeup reflect the broad range of expertise necessary to adequately review all the elements of water use efficiency and transfers.

cc: Robert Perciasepe
Patricia Beneke
Felicia Marcus
Michael Spear